

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
GUIDELINES FOR OBSERVATIONAL RIDE-ALONGS ON PARAMEDIC UNITS

Any individual who participates in a ride-along with any paramedic unit in Milwaukee County does so at the discretion and with the permission of the Chief of the Fire Department in which that unit is located. Prior approval by the Chief of the Fire Department and Milwaukee County EMS is required.

Priority in ride-along assignments is given to students enrolled in Milwaukee County EMS Education Center courses.

All individuals must sign a waiver prior to riding on the unit, indicating they agree not to seek any compensation from the Fire Department or Milwaukee County EMS for any illness or injury, which may result from their presence on the unit or on Fire Department property. Persons assigned must show evidence of insurance/liability coverage from their primary employer.

Presence on a Med unit is for observation only and at no time may the individual on the ride-along participate in patient care. Medical control is retained at all times by the Medical Director of Milwaukee County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system or his/her designee

Participants should be professionally attired in dark trousers and shoes and a light-colored shirt. Name tags indicating professional status and affiliation should be visible. Temporary name tags are the responsibility of the participant. Unless turn-out gear is made available by the fire department, hazardous environment/rescue scenes are off limits. Outer garments appropriate to the weather should be worn, preferably with safety reflective tape attached. Neither the Fire Department nor Milwaukee County EMS is responsible for any clothing damaged in the course of the observation assignment.

Persons granted permission to observe on the Med unit should arrive at the unit quarters at the prescribed time and report to the team leader/lieutenant of the paramedic unit. A short orientation to the unit and equipment will be provided upon request. Observational participants will ride in the patient compartment of the vehicle. During responses to emergency calls and at all other times when possible, seat belts are required.

Each person is responsible for making arrangements for his/her own meals during the time s/he is assigned to the paramedic unit. Requests to eat with the Fire Department are made by calling the quarters as soon after 8:00 a.m. as possible on the day assigned. Each unit has a different price for meals, ranging from \$3 to \$5. You may bring your own "brown bag."

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE CONDITIONS STATED.

Name _____ Affiliation _____

Witness _____ Date _____